

**BRISTOL WARREN REGIONAL
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY, JULY 14, 2014**

The bi-monthly meeting of the Bristol Warren Regional School Committee was held on Monday, July 14, 2014, in the cafeteria of Mt. Hope High School, 199 Chestnut Street, Bristol, RI. Chairman Silva called the meeting to order at approximately 7:03 PM.

Present: Paul Silva, Chairman; John Bento, Vice-Chairman; Karen Lynch, Secretary; Diana Campbell, Marjorie McBride, William O'Dell, John Saviano, Lynn Wainwright, Mario J. Andrade, Superintendent; Pauline A. Silva, Director of Administration and Finance; Mary N. Almeida, Director of Literacy and Title I; Leslie Anderson, Director of Pupil Services and Andrew Henneous, Esq., District Solicitor

Absent: Susan Rancourt, Treasurer

OPENING BUSINESS

All present were invited to join in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Judy Squires expressed her continued frustration and anger concerning the decision to remove from the MHHS Sports Program the Boys' Varsity Tennis Team, which had been part of the MHHS

Sports Program for decades, in order to add a Boys' Varsity Volleyball Team. These changes went into effect for the 2013-2014 academic year. According to the School Department, due to Title 9 requirements, boys' tennis could only be run as a club sport because of the addition of boys' volleyball as a varsity team. Ms. Squires cited statistics related to student participation during the 2013-2014 school year for both the Boys Tennis Club Program and Boys Volleyball Varsity Team. She believes there is still a greater interest in boys' tennis. Ms. Squires does not believe she has received adequate answers regarding the rationale behind the decision to remove the Boys Varsity Tennis Team and is asking for transparency.

Ms. Tracey McGee thanked Dr. Andrade for his transparent communication regarding the Boys' Varsity Tennis Team decision. Ms. McGee shared her recommendation for addressing the Title 9 concerns.

Ms. Susan Contente requested answers to explain why boys tennis was not included on the high school sports interest sheet recently distributed to high school students. She is concerned that those students will not be able to express interest in boys' tennis if it is not listed as part of the MHHS Sports Program for the upcoming academic year.

Ms. Rhonda Fortin asked if her senior will be offered boys tennis for the upcoming school year. She requested transparency. She read an

excerpt from past School Committee Meeting Minutes where the Chairman stated that the rationale for the exact numbers leading to the decision regarding the removal of the Boys' Varsity Tennis Team would be provided for review.

Chairman Silva stated that questions and rationale related to the decision to remove boys' tennis as a varsity sport were previously answered at public meetings where documents were distributed which supported the Athletic Director's decision to remove boys' tennis as a varsity sport. Answers were also disseminated via electronic communication by administrators and the School Committee.

Chairman Silva explained the proper chain of command protocol for addressing concerns. Any issues related to a high school sport should be addressed at the high school level first through the Athletic Director and high school administration before bringing it before the Superintendent and/or School Committee. Chairman Silva reiterated that the School Committee does not dictate how the individual schools handle programs.

Dr. Andrade stated that boys' tennis is not on the "back burner". He has met with the Athletic Director several times to discuss whether or not to bring back the Boys' Varsity Tennis Team. The recommendation for the high school sports program going forward for the 2014-2015 academic year would be for boys' tennis to remain a

club sport. Dr. Andrade stated that the Sports Program list for the 2014-2015 academic year will be reviewed over the next ten days where information will be compiled in order to continue the conversation with those concerned about the removal of the Boys' Varsity Tennis Team.

Ms. Rhonda Fortin stated, for the record, that 30 days ago she made a request for public information to the Superintendent's Office and was not required to fill out a public access form. Ms. Fortin stated that she "cut and pasted" the same request from 30 days ago and resubmitted to the Superintendent's office. At that time, she was required to fill out a public access form. Ms. Fortin stated this was the first time she was required to fill out a public access form for the information requested.

Ms. Susan Contente stated she has not seen in "black and white" an explanation regarding how the District would be non-compliant with Title 9 if Boys Tennis remained a varsity sport. Chairman Silva responded that an attorney could answer specifics about Title 9 requirements.

Ms. Susan Contente stated that they will meet with the Athletic Director, High School Principal and Superintendent in the hopes of receiving clear answers concerning the boys' tennis program. Mrs. Wainwright requested to be present at that meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Pursuant to Open Meeting Laws 42-46-5 (a)(1) an executive session will convene for the following:

1. Personnel Recommendations #S2014-42

MOTION: Mr. Saviano made a motion to enter into executive session at 7:32 p.m.; seconded by Mr. Bento. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Mr. Saviano made a motion to adjourn the executive session at 8:04 p.m.; seconded by Mrs. Campbell. The motion passed unanimously.

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS AND ISSUES

Chairman Silva stated that all items listed on the Consent Agenda are considered routine by the School Committee and are enacted in one motion. There is no separate discussion of Consent Agenda items unless requested by a committee member, in which case the item(s) are withdrawn from the general order of business and considered in the normal sequence of the agenda. Chairman Silva stated, for the record, that he was asked to remove item A1 and A3 from the Consent Agenda for a separate vote.

MOTION: Mr. Saviano made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda; seconded by Mrs. Lynch. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Mr. Saviano made a motion to approve A1 of the Consent Agenda; seconded by Mrs. McBride. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Mr. Saviano made a motion to approve A3 of the Consent Agenda; seconded by Mrs. Campbell. The motion passed 6-1; Mrs. McBride dissenting.

Dr. Andrade introduced the new Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Ms. Diane Sanna; Assistant Principal of MHHS; Ms. Deborah DiBiase; and MHHS Social Worker, Ms. Kerry Doyle. Dr. Andrade shared the new individual's credentials and career highlights. He welcomed them all to the District.

On behalf of the School Committee, Chairman Silva welcomed the new appointees to the District.

S2014-42 A-E: CONSENT AGENDA - PERSONNEL

A. APPOINTMENTS: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint the following applicants to the positions of Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Secondary Assistant Principal – Instructional Leadership, Secondary Dean of Students and Secondary Social Worker as listed below:

1. Diane Sanna Assistant Superintendent of Schools

Effective: Immediately, pending receipt of certification and satisfactory completion of pre-employment requirements

**Reason: To fill a vacancy
(Promotion – M. Andrade)**

Funding: Operational Budget

2. NAME FORTHCOMING

Deborah DiBiase, Ed.D. Assistant Principal-Instructional Leadership – Mt. Hope High

Effective: Immediately, pending receipt of certification and satisfactory completion of pre-employment requirements

**Reason: To fill a vacancy
(Retirement – G. Murgo)**

Funding: Operational Budget

3. William J. Pabst Dean of Students – Mt. Hope High

Effective: Immediately, pending receipt of certification and satisfactory completion of pre-employment requirements

**Reason: To fill a vacancy
(Retirement – R. Noble)**

Funding: Operational Budget

4. Kerry Doyle Social Worker – Mt. Hope High

Effective: For the 2014-15 school year, pending receipt of certification and satisfactory completion of pre-employment requirements

**Reason: To fill a vacancy
(Retirement – N. Fortin)**

Funding: Operational Budget

B. APPOINTMENTS: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint the following applicants to the positions of two Elementary Head Teachers as listed

below:

1. Tina Hyllested Head Teacher – Guiteras

**Effective: For the 2014-15 school
year**

Reason: To fill a vacancy

Funding: Operational Budget

2. Kelly A. Brum Head Teacher – Rockwell

Effective: For the 2014-15 school year

Reason: To fill a vacancy

Funding: Operational Budget

C. ELEMENTARY SUMMER PROGRAM: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint the following individuals for the Summer 2014 session only of the Bristol Warren Regional Elementary Summer Program contingent upon sufficient enrollment:

Name Position

- 1. Stephanie Pedro Teacher**
- 2. Maria Grace Arruda Teacher**
- 3. Elizabeth Donahue * Substitute Teacher**

*** Pending satisfactory completion of pre-employment requirements**

D. EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint the following applicants to the extracurricular positions listed below for the 2014-15 school year only (pending certification, funding and sufficient sign-ups to warrant running these programs):

ADVISORS – MT. HOPE HIGH

- 1. DECA (Co-Advisor) Adrienne Burke**
- 2. Marching Band – Drum Line Instructor Ray Sartini**

E. RESIGNATIONS/RETIREMENTS: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to accept the resignations of Harriette L. Lapointe from the position of Elementary Library/Media Specialist and Samantha A. Medeiros from the position of Middle School Social Studies Teacher as listed below:

- 1. Harriette L. Lapointe Library/Media Specialist – Colt Andrews**

Effective: June 20, 2014

Reason: Retirement

2. Samantha A. Medeiros Social Studies Teacher – Kickemuit Middle

Effective: End of 2013-14 School Year

Reason: Personal

NECAP GRADUATION POLICY UPDATE

Dr. Andrade shared an update regarding NECAP Requirements for graduating seniors. Recently, a bill was passed delaying the utilization of the NECAP test as a graduation requirement until 2017. Dr. Andrade stated that Bristol Warren Regional School District will need to revamp the Graduation Requirements Policy to align with this change. Dr. Andrade stated that the Bristol Warren Regional School District has a moral obligation to students to ensure excellence in academics whether there is a test requirement or not. Dr. Andrade believes the new administrators appointed this evening will help to lead the District in academic excellence.

Mrs. Wainwright asked about the six students and their families who were impacted by the recent changes to the graduation requirements.

Dr. Andrade stated, for the record, that those six students met all of Bristol Warren Regional School District's local requirements and scored higher than all the Partially Proficient students RIDE identified as making sufficient growth on their NECAP scores. As a result, the six students will be awarded their diplomas.

SUBCOMMITTEE/SCHOOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS & INITIATIVES

Budget/Facilities Subcommittee – Chairman Silva, speaking on behalf of Mrs. Rancourt, reported that the next meeting will be held on Monday, July 21, 2014 at 6 p.m.

Policy & Curriculum Subcommittee – Mr. O'Dell stated that the next meeting will be held on Monday, August 4, 2014.

Personnel/Contract Negotiations Subcommittee – Chairman Silva stated that an update concerning contract negotiations will be given during the Executive Session.

Wellness Committee – Mrs. Wainwright shared highlights of Chartwells Food Services wellness initiatives for Bristol Warren students.

Chairperson's Initiatives – Chairman Silva stated, for the record, that Senate Bill S 2955 introducing amendments to the enabling legislation had already been signed on July 1st passing the house and senate. The bill will be on November's ballot. School Committee

members expressed concern that they were not asked to offer an opinion on the Senate Bill until after it had already passed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Pursuant to Open Meetings Laws 42-46-5 (a)(2) an Executive Session will be convened to discuss the following:

- 1. BWEA Contract Negotiations Update**
- 2. Town of Warren Litigation Update**

Chairman Silva stated, for the record, that no action will be taken during the Executive Session. The Open Session will reconvene afterward only to adjourn.

MOTION: Mr. Saviano made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:34 p.m.; seconded by Mrs. McBride. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Mrs. Campbell made a motion to adjourn the Executive Session at 9:34 p.m.; seconded by Mrs. McBride. The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT – 9:36 PM

MOTION: There being no further business to discuss, Mrs. Campbell motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:36 PM; seconded by Mrs. McBride. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen A. Lynch, Secretary

/kd